

Apprentice Apostles

MARK 6:1-13. 30

He left that place and came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. **2** On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! **3** Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offence at him. **4** Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honor, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' **5** And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. **6** And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching.

7 He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. **8** He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; **9** but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. **10** He said to them, 'Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. **11** If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.' **12** So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. **13** They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them... **30** **The apostles gathered around Jesus**, and told him all that they had done and taught.



How does Jesus prepare his disciples to be sent out to preach?

What do they need to bring with them?
What do they need to leave behind? Why?

Why does he tell them to shake the dust off their feet?

Apprentice Apostles : Priorities

WHAT WERE JESUS' PRIORITIES AS HE TRAINED AND COACHED HIS APPRENTICE APOSTLES?			
Priority Choice	The Alternative Choice	Why does he make this choice?	What does this look like in my mission?
PARTNERSHIP OVER <input type="text"/>	Jesus' disciples could have covered more villages if they had each been sent out alone.		
RISK OVER <input type="text"/>	They could have been told, "Carry food and supplies with you and come back when you run out."		
AUTHORITY OVER <input type="text"/>	Jesus could have emphasized a specific healing technique like magic words, ritual hand motions, or proper procedure.		
DEPTH OVER <input type="text"/>	Jesus could have suggested that they spend each night in a different home not to become too much of a burden to anyone.		
RESPONSIVENESS OVER <input type="text"/>	He could have told them not to take "No" for an answer, that their persistence in preaching will eventually break down resistance.		
CLARITY OVER <input type="text"/>	He could have said, "Try to slip out of unresponsive towns without being noticed."		

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Leaders' notes: This training session is meant to work for any kind of outward move (apostle = "sent one"). If you are beginning some evangelistic outreach, or going on a short-term ministry or mission trip, this Bible study and reflection can help you think about priorities in this outreach. This tool will be more effective to the extent that the mission considered in the personal reflection is concrete, specific and imminent. The responses to the question boxes can then be very helpful and timely. The personal reflection box answers on the second page have been focused around training students to do follow-up to signups during New Student Outreach (NSO).



How does Jesus prepare his disciples to be sent out to preach?

- He gives them authority and power
 - He modeled preaching
 - They were able to witness his rejection
- In fact, this rejection might have been the last thing they needed to see before they could be judged ready...

What do they need to bring with them? What do they need to leave behind? Why?

- Bring a friend: Partnership
- Don't bring extra food or clothes—rely on the people to whom you are sent
- Blessing to those who receive you; testimony of judgment to those who don't

Why does he tell them to shake the dust off their feet?

When they get rejected (and they will) they will have a tendency to take it personally—as if they have done something wrong. Jesus prepares them for rejection, and to continue afterward

Apprentice Apostles : Priorities

WHAT WERE JESUS' PRIORITIES AS HE TRAINED AND COACHED HIS APPRENTICE APOSTLES?			
Priority Choice	The Alternative Choice	Why does he make this choice?	What does this look like in my mission?
PARTNERSHIP OVER Coverage	Jesus' disciples could have covered more villages if they had each been sent out alone.	Jesus both cares for his apostles and knows that their mission will be more successful with partnership.	[Solicit answers from the group.] Go out in teams or partners.
RISK OVER Provision	They could have been told, "Carry food and supplies with you and come back when you run out."	For their mission to be a success, people will need to receive them. This is fundamentally an opportunity to trust God and to see God at work.	Find ways to take real risks in the mission. Don't avoid relational risk. Think ahead about what to say to people to focus the conversation on Jesus.
AUTHORITY OVER Technique	Jesus could have emphasized a specific healing technique like magic words, ritual hand motions, or proper procedure.	Jesus wants his disciples to rely not in words or technique but in the power of God and the authority he has given them.	Do you believe God has sent you? Do you see people's need for what you bring? We are not selling stuff people don't need.
DEPTH OVER Breadth	Jesus could have suggested that they spend each night in a different home not to become too much of a burden to anyone.	Jesus wanted his disciples to have a broad testimony (preaching in towns) but deep influence, staying with a family for days and building deep relationships with them.	Find a few people who are amazingly receptive (they'll be obvious) and god deeper with them. Two roommates who both signed up: ask them to help you get to know others in the dorm.
RESPONSIVENESS OVER Rejection	He could have told them not to take "No" for an answer, that their persistence in preaching will eventually break down resistance.	Jesus tells them to seek responsiveness and move beyond rejection, because they will experience both (as Jesus himself did). Rejection does not equal failure—move on to places where you will be received.	Look for responsiveness and move on from rejection. There is a difference between welcome and faithfulness. IF they welcome you, be patient. If not, move on.
CLARITY OVER Avoidance	He could have said, "Try to slip out of unresponsive towns without being noticed."	He wanted his disciples and the people to know that the town had made a choice to reject the gospel.	Tell people when you are deciding to move on but give them a way to show their interest if they change their mind.

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